

Message Text

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ACTION H-03

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FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5355

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FOLLOWING SENT ACTION JAKARTA FROM SURABAYA 19 NOV 74
REPEATED FOR YOUR ACTION:

SURABAYA 0558

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OREP (MOOSE, RICHARD M. AND MEISSNER, CHARLES F.)

SUBJECT: STAFFDEL VISIT

REF: A) STATE 233408; B) JAKARTA 13949

1. STAFFDEL MOOSE/MEISSNER VISITED SURABAYA NOVEMBER 15. THEY MET WITH EAST JAVA GOVERNOR NOER AND HIS STAFF, WERE BRIEFED BY THE CONSULATE, MET WITH SEVERAL AMERICANS LIVING AND WORKING IN EAST JAVA, AND TOURED THE COUNTRYSIDE.

2. FIRST STOP: GOVERNOR NOER AND MEMBERS OF HIS STAFF BRIEFED STAFFDEL ON CONDITIONS IN EAST JAVA AND DEVELOPMENT PLANS. MOOSE SAID THAT WITH THE WINDING DOWN OF THE INDOCHINA WAR, THE SFRC IS INCREASINGLY FOCUSING ON OTHER AREAS OF SOUTHEAST ASIA. MOOSE AND MEISSNER ARE TO WRITE A REPORT ON THE PHILIPPINES AND DELIVER AN ORAL REPORT ON INDONESIA TO SELECTED MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE. THEY CONGRATULATED THE GOVERNOR ON THE PROGRESS MADE BY HIS PROVINCE IN THE FIRST FIVE-YEAR-PLAN. GOVERNOR NOER REPLIED THAT MUCH REMAINED TO BE DONE, ESPECIALLY IN THE AREA OF SOCIAL WELFARE WHERE NATIONAL GOALS SOMETIMES CONFLICTED WITH PAROCHIAL INTERESTS. THE GOVERNOR NOTED THAT CUTBACKS IN AID PROGRAMS HIT THIS AREA ESPECIALLY HARD. HE SPECIFICALLY MENTIONED FUNDS FOR
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SENDING AID PARTICIPANTS TO THE UNITED STATES AND A MEMBER OF HIS

STAFF ALSO NOTED PROGRAM FUNDS FOR FAMILY PLANNING. THE GOVERNOR SAID THAT FOREIGN ASSISTANCE WOULD CONTINUE TO BE CRUCIAL TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF EAST JAVA FOR MANY YEARS TO COME. MEISSNER, AS AN AGRONOMIST, WAS ESPECIALLY INTERESTED IN THE SUGAR INDUSTRY. HE ASKED ABOUT THE PROBLEMS ASSOCIATED WITH EXPANDING SUGAR HECTARAGE LEASED FROM SMALL HOLDERS WHO MIGHT RECEIVE A GREATER RETURN FROM HIGH YIELD RICE CROPS, THE GOVERNOR REPLIED THAT EAST JAVA WAS MOVING AWAY FROM LAND RENTAL FOR CANE GROWING AND TOWARD A SYSTEM OF PRODUCTION SHARING ON A 50-50 BASIS.

3. DURING THE CONSULATE BRIEFING STAFFDEL EXHIBITED PARTICULAR INTEREST IN PORTUGUESE TIMOR, THE ROLE OF DLG, AND ECONOMIC/ INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT POLICIES. BRIEFING NOTES WILL BE SENT TO JAKARTA NOV. 21.

4. DURING LUNCHEON, STAFFDEL WAS INTERESTED IN LIVELY EXCHANGE BETWEEN AMERICAN BUSINESSMAN WHO LAMENTED DIFFICULTIES OF GENERATING REGULAR PRODUCTION OF HANDICRAFTS AMONG RURAL PEOPLES AND AMERICAN UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR WHO HAS BEEN PURSUING RESEARCH IN RURAL JAVA FOR ALMOST ONE YEAR. LATTER INSISTED THAT BUSINESSMAN'S PROBLEMS WERE ROOTED IN FAILURE TO UNDERSTAND AND ACCOMMODATE HIMSELF TO LOCAL CULTURE.

5. AFTER LUNCH, STAFFDEL, ACCOMPANIED BY UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR AND CONOFF, DROVE TO TRETES HILL STATION ABOUT 55 KM. FROM SURABAYA. DURING DRIVE THEY OBSERVED AGRICULTURAL AREAS AND CONTINUED EARLIER DISCUSSIONS ABOUT AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT.

6. ON DEPARTURE, STAFFDEL INDICATED DESIRE TO RETURN TO INDONESIA IN THE SPRING OF 1975 FOR MORE IN DEPTH OBSERVATION. WE SUGGESTED THEY COME IN LATE MAY OR JUNE TO CATCH THE RAMAYANA IN JOGYA, AND THEY AGREED.

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